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PATENT, TRADEMARK, COPYRIGHT
AND UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW
AND RELATED LITIGATION

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May 19, 2004

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To: Examiner Cuong H. Nguyen
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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From: Douglas A. Scholer
Reg. No. 52,197

Fax: 703-872-9306

Re: US Application
Serial No.: 09/827,803
Filed: April 6, 2001
Applicant: Efrain Torres et al.
Art Unit: 3625
Confirmation No.: 6869
Our Ref.: HILB-720
Pages: 3 (including cover sheet)

Enclosures:

Fax Cover Sheet containing Certificate of
Facsimile Transmission (1 page)
Response to Restriction Requirement
containing Certificate of Facsimile
Transmission (2 pages)

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Judith L. Volk
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May 19, 2004
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Confirmation No. 6869

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Efrain Torres et al.

Art Unit: 3625

Serial No.: 09/827,803

Examiner: Cuong H. Nguyen

Filed: April 6, 2001

Atty. Docket No.: HILB/720

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD OF PLANNING A FUNERAL

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted to reply to the Office Action dated April 19, 2004, within the one-month period for response. In the Office Action, the Examiner subjected claims 1-69 to restriction, and more particularly, grouped the claims as follows:

- Group I (Claims 1-29, and 59-66 drawn to computer-implemented method for creating an online funeral plan);
- Group II (Claims 30-58, and 67-68 drawn to a very general apparatus (based on the claimed preamble) having a memory, a database, and a computer program); and
- Group III (Claim 69 drawn to a computer-implemented method for creating an online plan/directory that adheres to a pre-determined "theme"/or surfing

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the Internet to select a specific style/environment (e.g., surfing the web to search for songs from a particular artist: Bon Jovi).

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-29, and 59-66) with traverse. Applicants respectfully disagree that Groups I, II, and III are patentably distinct, and therefore, traverse the election requirement. Applicants assert a relationship is disclosed between Groups I, II, and III for the reasons discussed and advanced as follows:


As recited in the claims and supported in the specification, the invention includes a system for arranging and funding a funeral or other memorial service. The system receives and uses user input requesting information associated with funeral products, services, and homes. The system associates the user input with a budgetary, profile, home locator, or step-based parameter. Information associated with the parameter is retrieved for inclusion within a funeral plan. The claims of Groups I, II, and III recite similar such functionality, among other common features. As dictated by these common features, all embodiments of the invention claimed in Groups I, II, and III rely on similar modes of operation, function, and affect.

Early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested upon receipt and entry of this Amendment.

If there are any questions regarding this paper, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, please contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

5/19/04
Date


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